



HF Happenings

No 516

July/August 2012

The photograph in HF Happenings 515 was taken in Burgersdorp in the North-Eastern Cape. The town has two of these block-houses. The Dutch Reformed Church and the Reformed Church in town are beautiful and well worth a visit.

The vehicle is ZS4BS/M2, on the left an ATAS-120 antenna and on the right a 5/8 for 2 metres and 70 cm with a FT-857 providing the signals.

New DXCC entity Kosovo soon?

Almost four and a half years after obtaining its independence the Kosovo, former province of Serbia, shall receive its full sovereignty in September. The International Steering Group decided this, as the Austrian Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger announced in Vienna last Monday.

Accordingly, the group decided to end international supervision with immediate effect to support the independence of Kosovo. Twenty-five countries belong to the International Steering Group, including Germany and most other EU countries, the United States and Turkey.

The former Finnish UN Special Envoy for Kosovo, Martti Ahtisaari, invented the concept of "supervised independence." The Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci attended the meeting of the group in Vienna.

SARL HF Phone Contest

The aim of the HF Contests is for participants to contact as many amateurs in Southern Africa (General Rules para 1.b.) as possible on 20, 40 and 80 metres. The SARL HF Phone contest will be run from 13:00 to 16:30 UTC [15:00 to 18:30 CAT] on Sunday 5 August with activity on 14 125 to 14 300 kHz; 7 060 to 7 100 and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz and 3 600 to 3 650 and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz.

Participation can be as a a) Single Operator Single Band; b) Single Operator All Band; c) Multi Operator Single Band or d) Multi Operator All Band. Individual competitors and club stations are encouraged to compete. The exchange is a RS report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001.

Each phone QSO counts 1 point. Count two points for each area (see below) on each band and count 2 points for each station contacted on all three bands.

South African Radio League
Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga

Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925

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http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HF_Happenings

Why not give QRP contesting a try during the next couple of weekends?





The areas are - Area 1: ZS1 Western Cape; Area 2: ZS2 Eastern Cape; Area 3: ZS3 Northern Cape; Area 4: ZS4 Free State; Area 5: ZS5 KwaZulu-Natal; Area 6: ZS6 Gauteng, Mpumalanga; Limpopo and North West; Area 7: 3B8 Mauritius, 3DA Swaziland, 7P Lesotho, 7Q Malawi, C9 Mozambique, Z2 Zimbabwe, 5R Madagascar, FR Reunion Island and FH Mayotte and Area 8: 9J Zambia, A2 Botswana, D2 Angola, V5 Namibia, ZD9 Gough and Tristan da Cunha Islands, ZS7 Antarctica and ZS8 Marion Island. Contacts with stations outside these areas are allowed, QSO points may be claimed but no zone or three-bander points may be claimed.

Certificates are awarded to the first three places and the highest single band score in each contest. There is also a trophy for the highest combined score in three contests.

Logs must be sent to the Bloemfontein ARC, Box 33211, Fichardt Park, 9317 or by e-mail to zs4bfn@netactive.co.za by Sunday 12 August.

SARL YL Sprint

This is a fun activity to celebrate Women's Day on 9 August between radio amateurs in South Africa. Call "YL Sprint." The Sprint is on the air on Thursday 9 August from 09:00 to 10:00 UTC [11:00 to 12:00 CAT]. The exchange is a RS report and YL or OM. It is a phone sprint on the 40-metre band, 7060 to 7100 and 7130 to 7200 kHz.

Scoring - contacts between YL stations are worth 5 points; contacts between YL and OM stations are worth 3 points and contacts between OM stations are worth 1 point.

Log sheets and summaries shall be submitted by 16 August 2012 to zs4bfn@netactive.co.za or by mail to the Bloemfontein ARC, Box 33211, Fichardt Park, 9317.

SARL Top Band QSO Party

Seven logs were received and it was determined that there were eighty-six stations participating. Of these eighty-six stations, nineteen stations operated CW.

Two hundred and thirty-two contacts were made during the QSO Party. It is just a pity that more logs were not submitted. The results are as follows:

1st Lukas Holtzhausen, ZS6LH, 232 points

2nd Phillip van Tonder, ZS6PVT, 155 points

3rd Johan van Zijl, ZS4DZ, 153 points

4th Nick Dreyer, ZS6NCK, 128 points

5th Romeo Nardini, ZS6ARQ, and Geoff Levey, ZS6GRL, 110 points

7th Keith Liddle, ZS6AGF, 28 points

Congratulations to the winner and thanks to all who sent their logs in

Is 1 or 2 dB worth the bother? Judge for yourself at Dave, AB7E's "Minimum Discernable Difference" website http://www.ab7e.com/weak_signal/mdd.htm

August

- 5 – SARL HF Phone Contest
- 9 – National Women's Day; SARL YL Sprint
- 9 to 11 – Schreiner Karoo Writers festival, Cradock; Oppikoppi, Northam, Limpopo
- 10 – School holiday
- 11 – Fort Nottingham Highland Games, Fort Nottingham
- 10 to 12 – The Ross Taylor Benefit Surf Contest, Knysna; Slow 2012, Robertson
- 18 – World Geocaching Day
- 18 and 19 – International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend
- 19 – SARL HF Digital Contest
- 19 – Oude Molen Distillery Mountain Bike Challenge, Elgin Valley
- 24 and 25 – Hantam Meat Festival, Calvinia
- 24 to 31 – Clanwilliam Wild Flower Show
- 26 – SARL HF CW Contest
- 31 Aug to 2 Sept – Winter Festival, Williston

September

- 1 – ZS6JVT 40 m Youth Contest
- 1 to 7 – National Arbour Week
- 5 – Secretaries Day
- 15 and 16 – SARL VHF/UHF Contest
- 16 – World Ozone Day
- 21 – Closing date October RAE
- 24 – Heritage Day; SARL Heritage Day Contest
- 26 – SARL Club Contest, SSB
- 27 – World Tourism Day
- 28 – Schools close

If you are attending any events, take your amateur radio with and spread the word about our hobby!



Swains Island DXpedition

Barry, ZS1FJ, says he is a team member of the Swains Island DXpedition from 5 - 19 September. There are 20 operators, 16 American, 1 Swede, 2 Germans and 1 South African. Swains Island is very rare and is no 30 on the world's most wanted list.

It is important that ZS/ZR, V5, Z2, A2, 7P, 3DA and C9 stations who want to work KH8S should inform Barry of the beam headings from that part of the Pacific to Southern Africa. The team has a target of 300 QSOs worked per hour! Barry also requires the times of the day in UTC time when you would expect to hear KH8S. This is vital. Contact Barry at bf207@starhub.net.sg

The team will fly from Honolulu to Pago Pago in American Samoa and then on a chartered boat for a 24 hour trip to Swains Island. There is no communication whatsoever. They will operate there with seven stations. After that, the boat picks up the team and returns to Pago Pago and they fly back to Honolulu. The team will be in tents and have two cooks who come with from Pago Pago.

Barry says he is taking a South African flag for ZS1FJ and a Singapore flag for his 9V1FJ call.

Logs are uploaded by satellite each day. If you have a PC system with Clublog, you will see the picture and name of the operator. The DXpedition website is www.nh8s.org

Spratly Islands, 1S, IOTA AS-051

John, 9M6XRO, and Steve, 9M6DXX, will be active with two stations and verticals from Pulau Layang Layang (Spratly Islands, AS-051) signing 9M4SLL using CW, SSB and RTTY on 80 - 10 m from 7 to 13 August. Note: 9M4 is issued to special event stations that may be anywhere on Malaysian territory. QSL via MOURX (OQRS), LoTW. See: <http://m0urx.com/9m4sll>

CQ Contests new deadline

Participants in CQ-sponsored contests will now have five days after the end of a contest to either upload or mail their logs. "This is the first step in an effort to speed the processing and reporting of CQ contest results," CQ magazine Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, explained, "and it is one more step in our ongoing efforts to help ensure the integrity of submitted logs. Shortening the deadline reduces the time available for those who might be tempted to 'cleanse' their logs after the contest."

However, "we realize that in some cases circumstances may not allow a timely submission," CQ WW Contest Director Bob Cox, K3EST, says. "Requests for an extension must be received before the log submission deadline by sending an e-mail to questions@cqww.com." The change takes effect with this year's CQ World Wide DX Contest and will apply to all future CQ-sponsored contests.

The five-day log submission deadline takes effect with the SSB weekend of the 2012 CQ WW DX Contest in October. The deadline for the 2012 CQ WW RTTY DX Contest (29 and 30 September) remains 15 October, as published in the July issue of CQ.

The 2011 DXCC Yearbook Now Available

The 2011 ARRL DXCC Yearbook is now available to all ARRL members as a supplement to the August digital edition of QST

http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/arrl/qst_201208/index.php?startid=91rr.

A printed copy of the Yearbook is also available for purchase in the ARRL Online Store <http://www.arrl.org/shop/The-DXCC-Yearbook-2011/>.

Is 1 or 2 dB worth the bother? Judge for yourself at Dave, AB7E's "Minimum Discernable Difference" website http://www.ab7e.com/weak_signal/mdd.htm





Contents include - The Year in Review by Carl Smith, N4AA; PJ2/W5MPC, 10 to 15 October 2010 by Mike Corey, KI1U; STOR Story by Antonio Gonzalez, EA5RM/STOR; Clinton B. DeSoto Challenge standings and 2011 DXCC Annual List

DXCC News

Bill Moore, NC1L, the ARRL Awards Branch Manager says that the H44UD 2012 Operation from the Solomon Islands is approved for DXCC credit.

Thanks Tjerk, ZS6P

N4KC publishes Amateur Radio book

Prolific and best-selling author Don Keith has just published his 25th book and it is a unique blend of fact and fiction that pays tribute to the writer's hobby of choice: amateur radio.

"Riding the Shortwaves: Exploring the Magic of Amateur Radio" is made up short stories, opinion pieces, humour and "how to" articles, all dealing with the growing and vibrant hobby. Some of the material in the book has appeared in other forms on various web sites including Keith's own amateur-radio-oriented site, www.n4kc.com.

"People have been urging me to put these articles into book form," Keith says. "I have taken some of the ones that folks seemed to enjoy most or that they tell me they learned the most from and added a bunch more that I have been working on for a while. That is the book! It is simply one man's love sonnet to the world's greatest hobby."

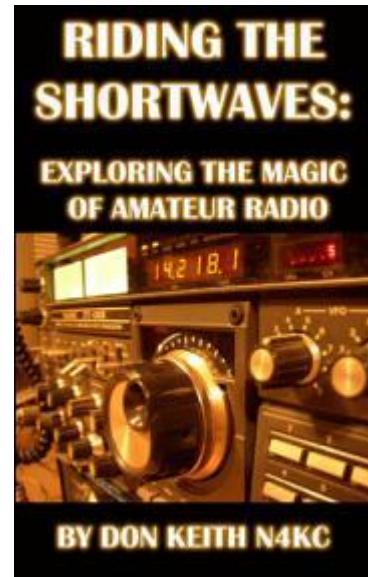
Keith has been a licensed amateur radio operator, his call sign is N4KC, for more than 50 years, obtaining his license initially in 1961 at the age of 13. He holds the Amateur Extra class license, is a member of the American Radio Relay League and is active on most amateur frequencies and modes. The author says the book is intended for those interested in joining the hobby and newly licensed amateurs, but he believes the stories and practical information will appeal to amateurs with all levels of experience.

N4KC has written books on subjects ranging from college football, NASCAR racing, World War II history, submarines, and more, and his works include both fiction and non-fiction.

His novel "Wizard of the Wind," set in broadcasting, has a radio amateur as a principal character and has just been made available as an e-book in addition to having been offered previously as a traditional printed book. His thriller, "Final Bearing," was a nationally-bestselling novel, and its sequel, "Firing Point," has just been published by Penguin/Signet and is in pre-production as a major motion picture. His book about the world's first nuclear-powered vessel, the submarine USS Nautilus, and her historic voyage to the North Pole in 1958 was titled "The Ice Diaries." It was co-written with the skipper who took her on that historic voyage. That book was submitted for consideration for the Pulitzer Prize. It also led to a major amateur radio special event operation in 2008 from Historic Ship Nautilus in Groton, Connecticut, as N9N to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the North Pole run (see the N9N entry on www.grz.com for details).

"I have been writing this book in my head for years," Keith says. "Then I began allowing some of the stories and articles to be published on some amateur radio web sites and put them on my own site. I have been thrilled with the positive response to them. I want everybody else

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to know how great our hobby is. It was the main factor that started me on a 22-year career in broadcasting. If young people knew how amateur radio could lead to a lifetime career, I think more of them might investigate it. Or if they just knew how much fun and satisfaction it can be!"

"Riding the Shortwaves: Exploring the Magic of Amateur Radio" is available as a trade paperback book or as an e-book for the Kindle or other e-book readers. Copies may be ordered through Amazon or via Keith's web site, www.donkeith.com (including in Europe) or www.n4kc.com. Other sellers of amateur radio books will also offer it soon.

African DX

Chad, TT. Silvano, I2YSB and the Italian DXpedition Team will be active as TT8TT from Chad in October. They plan to operate CW, SSB and RTTY on 160 - 6 metres with three stations. QSL via I2YSB (direct) or IK2CIO (bureau), plus LoTW within six months. Further information, online logs and OQRS can be found at www.i2ysb.com.

Once again Arturo, IK7JWY, will be the pilot station for the expedition (it will be possible to contact him through the dedicated forum at www.hamradioweb.org).

African Islands

Special Event Stations

Romania. The special event station YQ0BIKE is working CW, SSB and digital until 12 August on the occasion of the "Cycling tour of Szeklerland".

England. Phil, G3SWH, will activate the special call MORSE on CW only on all bands over the weekend of 18 and 19 August 2012. All QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW immediately after the weekend. There will also be an on-line log at www.g3swh.org.uk/mOrse.html. Special QSLs are available via G3SWH, either via the OQRS facility at www.g3swh.org.uk/decision.html (bureau or direct) or direct with SAE and adequate return postage or even via the traditional bureau route.

Germany. The special event station DR50DTANGO (special DOK 50DT) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the district Swabia (T) until the end of the year.

Montenegro. The radio club "Bijelo Polje" celebrates its 60th anniversary by using the special call sign 4O60GBP until the end of 2012. QSL via 4O3Z.

Poland. The special event station SN7PW remembers the uprising in Warsaw every year from 1 August until 2 October. QSL via SQ7GDS.

The scout station 3Z70ZK will be active from 1 August until 28 October. QSL via SP5ZRW.

Electromagnetic Spectrum

A chart of the electromagnetic spectrum adorns a lot of workshops, offices and amateur radio shacks - here's a free download version from Unihedron and a full-size printed copy can be purchased as well. <http://unihedron.com/projects/spectrum/moreinfo.php>

Is 1 or 2 dB worth the bother? Judge for yourself at Dave, AB7E's "Minimum Discernable Difference" website http://www.ab7e.com/weak_signal/mdd.htm





Word to the Wise

ID - it is not just for ragchews anymore! The availability of Internet spotting networks does not remove the requirement to send your call sign in contests - we need to know who you are!

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 30 July to 6 August 2012.

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 3 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 4 August 2012

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.grpfoxyhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 3 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 5 August 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.nccsprint.com/rules.html>

TARA Grid Dip Shindig

00:00 - 24:00 UTC 4 August

Mode: PSK, RTTY

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: High Power; Low Power; QRP; Rover; SWL

Exchange: Name and 4-character grid square

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

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Multipliers: Each grid square once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 September 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_grid_score.html

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_grid_rules.html

10-10 International Summer SSB Contest

00:01 UTC 4 August to 23:59 UTC 5 August

Mode: SSB

Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: Individual; Club; QRP

Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: 10-10 Member: Name, 10-10 number and state, province or country; Non-Member: Name, 0 and state, province or country

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with a non-member; 2 points per QSO with a 10-10 member

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 20 August 2012

E-mail logs to: tentencontest@roadrunner.com

Mail logs to: Dan Morris, KZ3T, 131 Valencia Lane, Statesville, NC 28625, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.ten-ten.org/Forms/QSO%20Party%20Rules.pdf>

European HF Championship

12:00 UTC-23:59 UTC 4 August

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: CW Only - High or Low; SSB Only - High or Low; Mixed - High or Low; SWL

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: RS(T) and 2-digit year first licensed

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each 2-digit year licensed once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 13 August 2012

Upload log at: http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhf_log_submission.htm

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhfcrules.htm>

North American CW QSO Party

18:00 UTC 4 August to 06:00 UTC 5 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP or Low; Multi-Two - Low

Max operating hours: Single Op: 10 hours; Multi-Two: 12 hours

Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

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Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 18 August 2012

Upload log at: <http://www.ncjweb.com/nagplogsubmit.php>

Mail logs to: Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, 1733 E. Broad Ave., Spokane, WA 99207, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.ncjweb.com/nagprules.php>

RSGB RoPoCo CW

07:00 - 08:30 UTC 5 August

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: RST and previous postcode received

QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with UK station

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 21 August 2012

Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: RSGB G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AF, England

Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/rropoco.shtml>

SARL HF Phone Contest

13:00 - 16:30 UTC 5 August

Mode: SSB

Class: Single Operator Single Band; Single Operator All Band; Multi-Operator Single Band; Multi-Operator All Band

Max power: As per Radio Regulations

Exchange: RS and a consecutive serial number starting at 001

QSO points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: See rules

Score Calculation: See rules

Submit logs by: 12 August 2012

E-mail logs to: zs4bfm@netactive.co.za

Mail logs to: The Bloemfontein ARC, Box 33211, Fichardt Park, 9317

Find rules at: In the 2012 SARL Contest Manual at <http://www.sarl.org.za> or C:\My Documents\Amateur Radio on your computer

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 7 August

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 8 August and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 9 August

NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint, 18:00 - 20:00 UTC 8 August

SARL YL Sprint, 09:00 - 10:00 UTC 9 August

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 10 August

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 10 August

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Maryland-DC QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 11 August to 04:00 UTC 12 August and 16:00 - 24:00 UTC 12 August

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 12 August

Feld Hell Sprint, 20:00 - 22:00 UTC 12 August

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 30 July 2012.

1181 - Supernova observed by Chinese and Japanese astronomers

1375 - First roller skating rink in the world opens in London

1774 - Priestly discovers oxygen

1919 - First air flight over a major body of water in Australia by Harry Butler

1945 - Atom Bomb dropped on Hiroshima (6 August in Japan)

1956 - First motorcycle rode over 200 mph or 321 kph by Wilhelm Herz at 338 kph

1959 - Explorer 6 transmits first TV photo of Earth from space

1977 - Radio Shack issues a press release introducing the TRS-80 computer. Twenty-five existed, within weeks thousands were ordered

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC



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